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PROGRAMME QUESTIONS: PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES AND PLANNING

Plans of the international organizations in the area of statistics

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

The present report provides updated information on the future activities in statistics of the organizations of the United Nations system and of several international organizations outside the system. For most organizations, it covers the principal activities planned for the biennium 1992-1993. In the case of the Statistical Office, the plan period covered is 1992-1997. Only important planned changes in the activities of the organizations are discussed - that is, new activities, activities to be cancelled and activities to be modified significantly.

* E/CN.3/1989/1.

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INTRODUCTION

1. The present report provides the Commission with a summary of the future activities in statistics of the organizations of the United Nations system and several international organizations outside the system.

2. The report is of necessity selective in coverage, owing to the strict page limitation for sessional documents. For most of the organizations, the plan period is identified, but for some, no specific plan period is indicated. In the case of the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat, the new medium-term plan for 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 24)) is before the Commission for discussion under agenda item 12 (c). A draft version of the plan (E/CN.3/1989/CRP.2) was discussed under agenda item 12 (c) at the twenty-fifth session of the Commission. The draft, revised to take into account the comments of the Commission, was then reviewed by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination during the first part of its thirteenth session and was endorsed by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session in resolution 45/253.

3. The general orientation of the future work of each organization remains largely unchanged from that set out in the previous report to the Commission. New activities and activities which have been cancelled or modified significantly are discussed. Routine, continuing activities, such as the issuance of recurrent publications, and other activities that have not changed since the twenty-fifth session of the Commission are not reported.

I. UNITED NATIONS

4. In light of the fact that the statistics portion of the new United Nations medium-term plan (A/45/6 (Prog. 24)) is before the Commission and will be considered under agenda item 12 (c), a full presentation of the plans for the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat has been deleted from this report. The work of the Statistical Office is covered under two organizational headings. Work in connection with subprogrammes 1-4 of the medium-term plan is presented under the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (DIESA) (see sect. II-A below) and work carried out in connection with subprogramme 5 is presented under the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (see sect. II-B below).

A. Department of International Economic and Social Affairs: Statistical Office (1992-1997) 1/

5. Activities which have been cancelled or modified significantly are dealt with in the documents for individual fields of statistics which are before the Commission for discussion. Accordingly, the present report should be read in conjunction with the following documents: national accounts (E/CN.3/1991/5); harmonization of the System of National Accounts (SNA) and the System of Balances

of the National Economy (MPS) (E/CN.3/1991/13); service statistics (E/CN.3/1991/15); industrial statistics (E/CN.3/1991/18); civil registration and vital statistics systems (E/CN.3/1991/19); price statistics (E/CN.3/1991/19); environment statistics (E/CN.3/1991/23); general development and integration of methodological work (E/CN.3/1991/24); and updated information on the work of the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat (E/CN.3/1991/30). In addition, reference may be made to the note by the Secretary-General entitled "Work programme of the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat for 1992-1993 and related information" (E/CN.3/1991/31).

B. Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (1992-1997)

6. The Department of Technical Co-operation for Development has overall responsibility for the implementation of technical co-operation projects in statistics and statistical data processing shown under subprogramme 5 of the new medium-term plan (A/45/6 (Prog. 24)). The Statistical Office continues to provide substantive support to the Department for these activities.

7. Activities which have been cancelled or significantly modified are reflected in the reports of the Secretary-General on technical co-operation activities in the fields of statistics rendered by the United Nations system, other international organizations and countries (E/CN.3/1991/25), and the National Household Survey Capability Programme (E/CN.3/1991/26); updated information on the work of the Statistical Office (E/CN.3/1991/30). In addition, reference may be made to the note by the Secretary-General on the proposed work programme of the Statistical Office for 1992-1993 (E/CN.3/1991/31).

C. Economic Commission for Europe (1992-1997)

8. The socio-economic changes in Eastern Europe have prompted a fundamental review and a major re-orientation of the work programme of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) in the field of statistics. The results of the review process undertaken by the plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians in June 1990 are reflected in changes concerning the structure of the programme elements, their priorities, and the role the Conference intends to play in regional statistical co-operation.

9. Regional statistical co-operation and all matters affecting the organization and operation of statistical services were integrated into a single subprogramme with the work directly supervised by heads of national statistical offices in the ECE region. A new subprogramme on statistical information technology was created, and it is expected that the issues of a harmonized design and development of statistical databases with a view to a facilitated electronic data interchange will probably occupy the forefront of the work in this field.

10. In determining priorities, the Conference decided to attach first priority to those programme elements in the fields of economic, social, demographic, environment and natural resource statistics, which are characterized by a pronounced developmental component. In concrete terms, this means that the Conference will continue to devote much of the resources at its disposal to environment and natural resource statistics. In addition, the development of internationally comparable service statistics, of business registers, and of statistics of the hidden and informal economic activities inside the production boundary of national accounts are currently envisaged to be given high priority. The Conference also recognized the importance of social and demographic statistics for measuring change in transition economies. Social repercussions of the transition process should be closely monitored, and it was agreed that future work by the Conference on social indicators should be urgently clarified.

D. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (1992-1997)

11. A basic strategy in the statistics subprogrammes for the biennium 1992-1993 will continue to be to assist the countries in strengthening and consolidating their statistical capacity. Due to the heterogeneity of the region, more careful attention will need to be given to the design of technical activities of interest to groups of countries identified by their statistical development needs, priorities and level of sophistication of statistical applications. The theme of human resources development will continue to be integrated into the subprogramme's activities, in conjunction with the work of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific.

12. The statistical implications of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade will be addressed. Increasing concern with the qualitative aspects of development, including social justice and the environment, will be reflected in the secretariat's activities, along with greater efforts for the measurement of living standards at the micro level. In view of growing concern at the depletion of natural resources assets in the region, special attention will be paid to environmental and natural resource accounting.

13. Among the newer areas of work will be the development of service statistics including the concepts, definitions, classifications and data collection methodologies, as well as the development of small areas statistics. The work on the International Comparison Project will continue to be supported, and issues relating to the management of statistical services will receive heightened attention during the 1992-1993 plan period.

14. Efforts will be made to introduce a new dissemination service through the provision of statistics on diskettes for microcomputers, and through other media. An ESCAP-wide statistical data base providing access to the United Nations data bases at New York and Geneva and those of other international agencies will be completed, given the availability of resources.

15. The secretariat's work on government sector computerization in the biennium 1992-1993 will be to continue to address the underlying policy and management issues and assist in the establishment of the requisite coherent, and complementary, organizational and technical infrastructures. At the regional level, it is envisaged that ESCAP will assume the role of focal point for the transfer between countries of the experience gained and the methodologies developed in public sector computerization, particularly through the organization of workshops and the establishment and maintenance of regional information technology networks.

E. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (1992-1997)

Subprogramme 1. Regional framework on statistical information

16. The main objectives pursued within this subprogramme during 1992-1993 will primarily be:

(a) To develop integrated statistical data bases for mainframe as well as microcomputers;

(b) To enhance data comparability by using the latest international classifications such as the SITC Rev.3, ISIC Rev.3, Harmonized System (HS) and Central Product Classification (CPC).

Subprogramme 2. Statistical development, statistical analysis and regional co-operation

17. The performance under this heading during the period 1992-1993 is to comply with the following concrete targets:

(a) Studies will be carried out on estimates of income distribution, poverty situations, labour and social indicators. Likewise, annual reports on the evolution of the social situation in Latin America and the Caribbean will be issued. For that purpose, ECLAC will continue developing statistical methods and techniques for the measurement of living conditions and will collaborate with the countries in strengthening the National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP) undertaken by the Statistical Office; equally, with the investigations of the Regional Employment Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean (PREALC);

(b) An evaluation will be done on the implementation of the new System of National Accounts (SNA) in Latin America and the Caribbean, pointing out difficulties and likely solutions. The conclusions of the work will be transmitted to the experts of the countries, aiming at a mutual achievement of the statistical techniques used in each country; at the same time, information will be given on the new recommendations that could emanate from the interinstitutional Working Group. This task implies organizing and co-ordinating country expert groups in different

areas of national accounts, in a way they can encounter, from a regional point of view, the numerous problems which no doubt will persist. On the other hand, once the information is organized according to the SITC Rev.3 and the ISIC Rev.3, a group of indicators will be prepared in each field in order to show the countries the usefulness of this type of information; to this regard, computing programmes will be designed to facilitate the use of data and will be supplied to the countries when required;

(c) In the field of technical co-operation, priority will be given to the development of household surveys; statistical organization, economic statistics and national accounts; and, transference and adjustment of computing systems in the statistical field.

F. Economic Commission for Africa (1992-1997)

18. The main activities in the area of general aspects of co-ordination and organization during the period 1992-1993 will include:

(a) The preparation and servicing of the seventh session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers, the eighth meeting of Directors of Centres participating in the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA), and workshops on statistical computing and development of statistical data bases;

(b) Advisory missions to member States on statistical organization and on the development and maintenance of national statistical data bases;

(c) Publication of the African Statistical Yearbook, African Socio-economic Indicators and other current technical publications such as Integrated Social, Demographic, Environmental and Economic data; Statistical Newsletter; Directory of African Statisticians; Directory of EDP Centres and Experts in Africa etc.

19. For the period under consideration, the main activities in national accounts and economic statistics will involve:

(a) The preparation and the distribution to member states and other users of national series data and technical publications on national accounts, industry, international trade and industry;

(b) Servicing of seminars, workshops and working groups in the fields of national accounts, international trade and industry;

(c) Advisory missions to member States on improving the quality, coverage and methodology of their basis economic statistics and national accounts needed for development policy formulation and planning, and reducing the data gaps and time lags.

20. During the same period, the activities in the area of demographic, social, household and environment statistics will include the following:

(a) Publication of national series on demographic and social statistics, African Compendium on Environment Statistics;

(b) Preparation and development of technical publications and guidelines on concepts, definitions and classifications used in population censuses and demographic surveys in Africa; the applications and analysis of household survey data relevant to the African region and environmental accounting;

(c) Organization of an intergovernmental working group on social indicators framework of relevance to Africa;

(d) Advisory missions to member States on the organization, planning and conduct of population and housing censuses, household surveys and development of civil registration systems and vital statistics collection and for establishing or improving environment statistics in national statistical offices and for data collection.

G. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (1992-1997)

21. The main activities planned for 1992-1993 will include:

(a) A regional workshop on the revised SNA will be conducted in the second half of 1993;

(b) A study on social statistics in the ESCWA region will be prepared for the assessment of the present situation of these statistics and their future development;

(c) A regional seminar on vital registration and statistics will be held for officials responsible for registration and compilation of vital statistics in the region;

(d) A regional training workshop on industrial statistics is planned in 1993 in connection with the World Programme of Industrial Statistics;

(e) A programme for the development of environment statistics in the ESCWA region will be prepared for 1992-1993, including an expert group meeting to be held in 1993 to discuss, among other things, international guidelines and recommendations;

(f) The intergovernmental meeting of heads of central statistical organizations which will be held in 1993 to review the ESCWA statistical programme and to establish its main orientation.

H. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (1992-1997)

22. UNCTAD will continue to work in close collaboration with the Statistical Office and international agencies in refining and updating statistical methodologies and harmonizing economic classifications with a view to improving coverage, timeliness and level of details of trade reported by developing countries via the ASYCUDA project. For the purpose of the General System of Preferences, foreign trade data from developing countries are needed at a detailed level, preferably at the tariff-line level or in terms of the Harmonized System.

23. Further work is under way to link the comprehensive Economic Time Series to the data bases of other international agencies to facilitate access and exchange of data. UNCTAD is actively seeking to enlarge the number of developing countries that report private and public financial flows to other developing countries and agencies. UNCTAD will continue its efforts to improve the trade deflator system in particular with regard to manufactures originating in developing countries. The Commodity Price Bulletin, which is at present limited to primary commodities, will be enlarged to include energy prices as well as manufactured goods prices.

I. United Nations Children's Fund (Plan period not given)

24. Work in statistics will continue on UNICEF publications such as the The State of the World's Children and Statistics on Children in UNICEF Assisted Countries. The third edition of the UNICEF Statistics Pocketbook is expected to be released. Much of the ongoing work related to statistics will continue, though with some differing emphases. The major change in emphasis will occur in the monitoring of the well-being of children. The World Summit for Children, held in New York in September 1990 and attended by over 70 heads of State or Government, advocated that all countries adopt specific goals for children for the 1990s. Major goals delineated by the Summit included: reduction of under-five mortality; reduction of maternal mortality; reduction of severe and moderate malnutrition; universal access to safe drinking water and sanitary means of excreta disposal; universal access to basic education; reduction of adult illiteracy; and protection of children in especially difficult circumstances. Monitoring of progress towards these goals was also recognized by the Summit as a mandatory activity and countries were requested to establish the appropriate mechanisms for doing so. However, recognizing that many developing countries, particularly the least developed and the most indebted ones, will need substantial international support, the Summit Plan of Action explicitly identified the need for the United Nations to provide monitoring assistance to countries. As the world's lead agency for children, UNICEF is adapting itself to playing a major role in monitoring the well-being of children and the progress towards child related goals for the 1990s.

II. SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY AND GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

A. International Labour Organisation (1992-1993)

25. The core activities of the Bureau of Statistics will concentrate on preparing reports and discussion papers for the Fifteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) which will be held in the autumn of 1992. Two meetings of experts will be organized in 1992 to examine the issues involved in the statistical measurement of informal sector employment and in the revision of the International Classification of Status in Employment. Another report and draft resolution will also be prepared on statistics of strikes and lockouts.

26. The Statistical Sources and Methods series will be continuously up-dated but will also be expanded to include topics not previously covered. The Bureau is considering the possibility of issuing a new edition of one volume every year at the same time as the Yearbook of Labour Statistics. The ILO intends in the course of 1992-93 to produce two new major volumes of sources and methods (in English); one will be on strikes and lockouts. The other will be on wages, hours of work and labour costs. Work will also start on compiling the methodological practices with respect to statistics of occupational injuries.

27. Special data bases will be developed to increase the capability of the Bureau to provide statistics, within and outside the Office, on topics which are essential but which cannot be regularly disseminated, such as informal sector employment, training and workers, public sector employment, statutory minimum wages, labour productivity.

28. Should additional resources become available, the Bureau will:

(a) Restructure the ILO Year Book of Labour Statistics in order to enhance the analytical use of the ILO data base and to collect more consistent data with a more complete coverage;

(b) Develop a system of cataloguing the contents of statistical publications in the ILO in order to exploit more systematically the wealth of statistical information that currently exists in the ILO library;

(c) Study the possibility of disseminating its labour statistics on CD-ROM;

(d) Investigate the replacement of data collection through questionnaires with more modern procedures (such as electronic data interchange or interactive questionnaire on floppy disks);

(e) Publish a supplement to ISCO 88 which would contain detailed descriptions of some 1,500 occupations and an updated and improved index of occupational titles;

(f) Publish a set of labour indicators relevant for monitoring employment and labour issues policies;

(g) Establish a centre for statistical services for in-house use.

B. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (1992-1993)

29. Emphasis will be given to the full development of the FAO World Agricultural Information Centre which will provide statistics of acceptable quality to users inside and outside FAO. This will take into consideration development in modern dissemination technology, comprehensive identification of users' data needs and in-depth appraisal of the quality and timeliness of the statistical information to be stored and retrieved by users.

30. Efforts to encourage developing countries to carry out their census of agriculture within the framework of the FAO Programme for the 1990 World Census of Agriculture will be intensified. Improved frames for agricultural censuses and surveys and use of network of microcomputers will be considered to improve data quality and timeliness.

31. With improvement in the financial situation, the following activities will be continued: trade matrices, animal feed balances, statistics on marketing costs and margins, development of a personal computer based data processing system, application of remote sensing for country-wide land use data, publication of the long-term series on per caput crop and livestock production and of the FAO statistical pocketbooks, average food balance sheets, manuals on livestock statistics, sampling techniques, land use statistics, and agricultural census methodology. Environment statistics related to agriculture will be a new programme element. Within the framework of the International Conference on Nutrition, to be held in Rome at the end of 1992, the Sixth World Food Survey will be published.

32. FAO will continue to co-operate with the United Nations National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP) on the collection of food and agricultural data through household surveys and with the World Bank on alternative survey approaches for obtaining timely and reliable estimates of food production, especially in countries of Sub-Saharan Africa.

C. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (1990-1995)

33. Activities will aim at refining and updating methodologies which may be concerned - for example, with terminology, measurement, data identification, collection and processing. Manuals and guides will be brought up to date or prepared, while special efforts will be made to ensure wider application and implementation of UNESCO's standard-setting instruments concerning the collection of international statistics. Improvement in the dissemination of statistical data

and publications will concern the UNESCO Statistical Yearbook and other major publications, and will be achieved by making data from the UNESCO Statistical Data Bank available in either machine-readable format or through direct access to the data bank.

34. During the first phase of the Plan, investigations will be undertaken to identify and quantify additional key data on cultural "industries" and on research and development in higher education. During the second phase, in-depth surveys and studies to assess literacy levels and the practice of languages and sports will be envisaged, while statistical work regarding adult education and lifelong training of scientists and engineers will be begun during the third phase.

35. Co-operation with the United Nations system and other international organizations will be pursued, particularly in areas related to the consolidation of classification systems. Co-operation will also take place with the Statistical Office, to which UNESCO will provide inputs for subject areas coming within its fields of competence, as well as for the statistical component of the World Decade for Cultural Development. In accordance with the policy of the United Nations ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities concerning the non-duplication of data collection within the system, the regular exchange of data between UNESCO, the United Nations and other specialized agencies will be continued. Similarly, UNESCO will provide the statistical input to the United Nations programme on prospective studies. Finally, co-operation with governmental and non-governmental organizations will be maintained with a view to promoting the international collection and comparability of statistics relating to their respective fields of competence.

D. International Civil Aviation Organization
(Plan period not given)

36. Improvement in efficiency rather than expansion and diversification remains the principal goal of the Organization. Special emphasis will be placed on the application of advance technology to the collection, processing and dissemination of statistics, including the development of a data bank with world-wide accessibility. Estimates of airline traffic will be provided quarterly and eventually monthly, on a world-wide and regional basis.

37. With regard to assistance to member States, efforts to promote the regular collection, analysis and publication of civil aviation statistics at the national level will be intensified through a programme of training courses, visits to States, informal workshops and guidelines.

E. World Health Organization (1991-1993)

38. WHO will assist member States to carry out the second evaluation of the implementation of their health-for-all strategies in 1991. On the basis of these country reports, global and regional evaluations of progress with health-for-all

strategies will be prepared by the WHO secretariat. Responding to requests from many member States and various technical programmes, the Health Situation and Trend Assessment Programme will promote the strengthening of future trend assessment in the health field.

39. After endorsement by the World Health Assembly at its forty-third session, in May 1990, the three-volume set (tabular list, notes and instruction for use, and alphabetical index) of the Tenth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10) will be prepared for printing and publication. ICD-10 will come into use as from 1 January 1993. In order to meet the needs of countries unable to implement the full provisions of ICD-10, a separate volume containing the three-character level of the classification with inclusion terms, exclusion notes and its own alphabetical index will also be published. The process of revising the International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities, and Handicaps (ICIDH), initiated in 1990, will lead to a revised version by 1993.

40. The World Health Statistics Quarterly and the World Health Statistics Annual will continue to publish information on the global health situation and trends. The Eighth Report on the World Health Situation will also be published, based on the data obtained from the second Health for All Evaluation. The Weekly Epidemiological Record will continue to publish periodic statistics on various topics.

41. The Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases of WHO held a training course in the use of computers and software for statistics for East African participants in Zambia in September 1990. The Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction of WHO will continue its plan for strengthening biostatistics, epidemiological and data processing capabilities in countries with a training course in Africa on advanced methods in statistics and microcomputer applications. A programme on multicentre studies on contraceptive methods will be undertaken in China.

F. World Bank (Plan period not given)

42. The two major initiatives of the Bank in the area of integrated household surveys, the Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) and the Social Dimensions of Adjustment project (SDA) will be pursued and expanded to cover additional countries. It is anticipated that SDA will be implemented in all of the 30 Sub-Saharan African countries that have joined the project. Particular emphasis will be placed on enhancing the capacity of member countries to carry out surveys by strengthening their institutional capacity.

43. In the context of strengthening the general statistical capacity of Sub-Saharan African countries, the Bank will undertake case studies and formulate appropriate proposals for medium-term development of national capacity. Working with other agencies, it will seek to put in place arrangements that promote more effective delivery of external technical inputs.

44. Methodological work related to the improvement of the international comparability of GNP estimates will be pursued. This will include work related to the possible use of ICP data. The conversion of MPS based estimates of national income to SNA aggregates will also be pursued.

45. Statistical work on environmental data will be pursued in two major directions. Experiments with environmentally adjusted national accounts will be done through country case studies. At the same time, the Bank will identify and collect appropriate environmental indicators for use in the context of operational and policy discussions with member countries.

46. The Bank's Debtor Reporting System will be supplemented by data from other agencies, including the Organisation of Economic Co-operation for Development and regional banks. The strengthening of national capabilities in recording, compiling, and reporting external-debt data will receive high priority.

47. Improved dissemination of data compiled by the Bank to member Governments will be a major activity. Data will be made available in a variety of forms, including CD-ROMS. For meeting the internal needs of the Bank staff, enhanced capacities will be put in place whereby staff will be able to access mainframe data, including metadata from linked personal computers now available to almost all Bank staff.

G. International Monetary Fund (1990-1995)

48. Technical co-operation in statistics will continue as a major activity of the work of the Bureau of Statistics of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). It is expected that more than 20 per cent of the economist staff resources of the Fund's Bureau of Statistics will be devoted to this activity, which will centre mostly on improving the statistical collection capabilities and methodological practices of developing countries. Priorities in this area will be centred on countries in which the statistical base is weak or where the data collection and reporting processes in the main fields of economic statistics are in need of review. Particular attention will be given to countries that have approached IMF with requests for the use of its financial resources.

49. In the area of data communications with member countries, IMF will seek out opportunities provided by advances in technolcgy to improve data reporting to the Fund via electronic data links. Efforts are under way to establish appropriate data interchange standards. Attention will be given to co-ordinating demands for data from member countries, both at the institutional level and in conjunction with other organizations, to facilitate reporting and avoid duplicative data reporting by member countries.

50. IMF will continue to be closely involved in the successful conclusion of the revision of the United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA). In close collaboration with the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities, the World Bank and the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development, IMF will participate actively in the

final round of expert group meetings and the subsequent review meetings, and will aim to contribute as appropriate to the draft document to be presented to the Statistical Commission at its twenty-sixth session, in 1991.

51. In association with work on the SNA, the period 1990-1995 is expected to be an active time for IMF in reviewing the statistical methodologies in those fields coming within its purview. This includes especially the preparation of a revised Balance of Payments Manual (the most recent, fourth, edition was issued in 1977) and a guide to money and banking statistics. IMF is also undertaking a study on the measurement of international capital flows as a follow-up to the study on the statistical discrepancy in world current account balances (the Esteva Report) that was published in 1987.

H. Universal Postal Union (1991-1994)

52. Statistical activities at the UPU have the following broad objectives:

(a) Systematically to record data on postal traffic volumes so as to deduce general trends and make extrapolations for the future;

(b) To collect information on staffing patterns and volumes, financial operating performance, performance of the postal financial services, technical means etc. of UPU member countries;

(c) To determine and quantify the level of services available to the public;

(d) To determine the evolution of the postal services in general over a period of time;

(e) To promote the use of statistics by postal administrations as an effective instrument for managing and planning their services;

(f) To determine the direction and volume of technical assistance to UPU member countries.

53. At UPU headquarters, statistical work is based on data received from Governments in response to an annual questionnaire. After verification and computation, this data is published in the Postal Services Statistical Yearbook. Reflecting the concern on the part of some member countries, a study is now under way to further simplify and rationalize the structure of these statistics. A three-yearly report on the development of the postal services (covering the situation up to 1989) will be published in 1991, and a similar five-yearly report covering the period 1987-1991 will be published in 1993/94.

54. Further, given the general demand on the part of UPU member countries, it has been decided to install a computerized data base at UPU headquarters. The data base is expected to become fully operational from 1993 onwards. It is expected

that the data base will go a long way in improving the level of the postal services in general.

55. Finally, expert missions and study fellowships relating to statistics have been a usual part of the technical assistance calendar, and it is expected that they will continue to be so.

I. International Telecommunication Union (1991-1993)

56. The ongoing activities of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) with regard to telecommunication statistics will be oriented towards:

(a) Improving the accuracy, utility and timeliness for collection, processing and dissemination of reliable statistical information concerning global telecommunication;

(b) Analysing the information collected in new and innovative ways to show the trends of telecommunication development in the world;

(c) Continuing the publication of the Yearbook of Telecommunication Statistics, with fuller statistics relating to network growth, services and applications, operations and providers, and economics;

(d) Introducing new telecommunication technologies and new statistics information systems;

(e) Establishing a unit within ITU for co-ordination of telecommunication statistics.

J. World Intellectual Property Organization (Plan period not given)

57. Technical publications issued in 1988: WIPO, Industrial Property Statistics, 1985, which incorporated the improvements and changes outlined in document E/CN.3/1987/22, reviewed at the previous session of the Commission.

K. United Nations Industrial Development Organization (1991-1995)

58. The programme of work of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) calls for relatively few additions or major changes in the period 1991-1995. Minor changes in orientation of priority, including the following:

(a) The collection of detailed information in order to improve international comparability and timeliness;

(b) Expansion of collection activities to include both official and unofficial information which can serve as investment guides and for monitoring industrial operations;

(c) Dissemination of results through recurrent publications and external distribution of industrial statistics in machine-readable form;

(d) Provision of technical assistance, on request, to assist developing countries in areas of data processing, storage and retrieval in connection with industrial census, surveys, data analysis and related activities.

L. International Atomic Energy Agency (Plan period not given)

59. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) collects, processes and distributes statistics whenever necessary for the execution of its programmes. As part of its research and isotopes programme, IAEA maintains statistics on nuclear physics and on research reactor utilization for distribution to member States. As part of its nuclear energy programme, statistics are maintained on nuclear power plant operations and energy economics. As part of its nuclear safety programme, statistics are maintained on incidents at nuclear power statistics. No new areas of statistical collection are planned. The emphasis in the immediate future will be on providing more comprehensive statistics in a more flexible manner (in some cases machine-readable) to member States.

M. General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (1991-1993)

60. Between now and 1993, emphasis will be given to the data required for customs tariff assessments resulting from the current round of negotiations as well as meeting the internal needs of GATT.

61. A project of major importance will continue to be the Integrated Data Base which is expected to be operational in 1991. It contains tariff line data on imports, tariffs and quantitative restrictions. The tariff lines are based on the Harmonized System. Over time, it is expected that the Integrated Data Base will be expanded to include exports and other categories of non-tariff measures on which information is supplied by contracting parties.

62. Another project is the GATT Data Base on International Trade in Services using information from the International Monetary Fund, OECD, the International Labour Office, the (United Nations Secretariat) Statistical Office and national sources. Efforts will concentrate on improving the coverage in terms of both economic series and country detail and on improving the comparability of data.

63. Continued support will be given, in collaboration with other international organizations, to studies in methodology regarding international trade statistics and related subjects.

III. OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

A. Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (1991-1993)

64. The following areas and topics of co-operation have been established between member countries of the Council of Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) in the field of statistics in 1991 and in the subsequent few years:

(a) Integration of SNA and MPS; development of the methodology of computation of GNP and GDP;

(b) Harmonization of the CMEA Classification of Branches of National Economy (CBNE) and the United Nations ISIC;

(c) Improvement in the international trade statistics, taking into account United Nations international recommendations in this area of statistics;

(d) Development of the methodology of inflation estimates;

(e) Development of the methodology of price indexes;

(f) Unemployment estimate methodology;

(g) Methods of statistical surveys of internal markets in the interested CMEA member countries: to what extent the demands on consumer goods and services are met; the quality of goods and services consumed;

(h) Publishing of statistical yearbooks and bulletins: Statistical Yearbook of CMEA Member Countries, Statistical Handbook of CMEA, the statistical abstract "International trade of CMEA member countries", quarterly statistical bulletins containing data on national economy and international trade, the information bulletin "Co-operation of the CMEA member countries in the field of statistics", and international comparison of basic economic indicators of national economic development of the CMEA member countries and Yugoslavia, 1988 data;

(i) Development of analytical statistical publications on the economies of CMEA member countries in 1990, the environment in CMEA member countries and efforts to protect it in 1990, co-operation of CMEA member countries and economic growth in Viet Nam, Cuba and Mongolia, further improvements in data processing systems in the CMEA member countries.

B. Statistical Office of the European Communities (1991)

65. The year 1991 will see a speeding-up in implementation of sectoral statistics programmes related to the objectives of the Single Act. Focus will be on gradually setting up the General Industrial Classification of Economic Activities within the European Communities (NACE) and on pilot surveys to test the new method for elaborating statistics on intra-Community trade. Activities will also be devoted to creating a register of European enterprises and adopting PRODCOM, the standardized classification of community industrial production.

66. Economic and social cohesion will be encouraged by revising the economic accounting system to produce a more uniform arrangement at Community and national levels and creating a system of regionally comparable statistical indicators as a reference tool for allocating regional funds. The increased pace of financial and monetary integration will be reflected in activities aimed at creating new community indicators to replace national indicators on money supply, capital flows and the balance of payments.

67. In environment statistics, physical pollution indicators will be introduced and methodological studies on the economic impact of environmental protection measures will be undertaken. A new computerized commercial and tariff statistics management system to follow up the GATT negotiations and the Uruguay Round will be introduced. In that framework, insufficiencies of the system of statistics on international transactions in services will be addressed.

68. Technical co-operation in statistics with the least developed countries will continue. In addition, due to the recent political developments in Eastern Europe, a co-operation programme with the countries of that region will be set up.

69. Finally, with a view to easing the burden which statistical surveys impose on enterprises, EUROSTAT has undertaken work on a computerized message system (EDIFACT-STATISTIQUE), the aim being to elaborate norms and systems for using the information processed by or exchanged among enterprises to produce rapid and comparable statistics.

IV. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

A. Inter-American Statistical Institute (1990-1993)

70. According to the new organization of the Institute, its activities for the period 1990-1995 will be oriented towards complementing the work carried out by other organizations concerning the development of governmental statistics in the American region and promoting the development of academic and professional statistical activities, through scientific publications and technical meetings.

71. Regarding governmental statistics, the Institute will co-operate with the national statistical offices of the American region, particularly in their activities related to those of the Inter-American Statistical Conference. At the same time, co-operation with ECLAC, FAO, and other organizations of the United Nations family will continue in the fields of censuses, household surveys, and agricultural statistics.

72. A seminar every year or every second year, depending upon the availability of additional sponsorship, will be organized within the framework of the series of seminars on statistical methods, initiated in 1987. The proceedings of these seminars will constitute an important part of the programme of scientific publications.

73. A series of sessions on statistical computing were programmed as part of DATA/90 (Miami, December 1990), and a seminar on statistical methods in business and actuarial sciences will be conducted in Mexico in September 1991.

V. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

74. The Commission may wish to comment on the plans of the organizations in the area of statistics, taking into account, inter alia, the implications of ongoing national statistical work for the future plans of the organizations.

Notes

1/ Refers to the plan period covered by narrative description.

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agenda*

PROGRAMME QUESTIONS: PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION

Updated information on the work of the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat

Report of the Secretary-General

* E/CN.3/1991/1.

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SUMMARY

The purpose of the present report is to provide updated information on agenda items where significant developments have occurred since the reports for the Statistical Commission were completed. These agenda items are the following: 3 (a), Increasing user awareness of the value of statistical outputs and services; 4 (a), System of National Accounts; 7, Price statistics; 8, Industrial statistics; 9 (a), Population and housing censuses; 9 (b), Civil registration and vital statistics; 9 (c), Social statistics and indicators; 9 (e), Environment statistics; 10, Development and integration of methodological work; and 11, Technical co-operation in statistics. Information on the work completed by the Statistical Office in the biennium 1988-1989 and 1990 is provided in annex I. Dates of national population censuses taken during the decade 1975-1984 and taken or anticipated during the decade 1985-1994 are given in annex II.

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INTRODUCTION

1. The purpose of the present report is to provide updated information on those agenda items in respect of which significant developments have taken place since the completion of the substantive reports. Information on major elements of work completed by the Statistical Office in the biennium 1988-1989 and in 1990 is contained in annex I. Dates of national population censuses taken during the decade 1975-1984 and taken or anticipated during the decade 1985-1994 are given in annex II.

I. INCREASING USER AWARENESS OF THE VALUE OF STATISTICAL OUTPUTS AND SERVICES

(Item 3 (a))

2. Since the "Report on increasing user awareness of the value of statistical outputs and services" (E/CN.3/1991/3) was submitted for reproduction, a reply to the questionnaire requesting information from selected national and international statistical services has been received from Italy.

3. Italy expressed firm commitment to efforts aimed at heightening the awareness of its statistical products. In particular, it had initiated several projects in an attempt to inform and educate secondary school students about the nature of statistics. Statistical products were promoted extensively via catalogue listings, mass media advertising, press conferences, stands at trade fairs and meetings with users, etc. The latter was also designed as a tool to assess the statistical needs of users.

4. In order to establish statistical information as a public service, an information spreading service had recently been established to deal with users' in-person requests for data. The service had so far proven to be very successful. In addition, regional statistical offices, major Italian institutions and many private users had on-line access to statistical data banks. Data were also forwarded on floppy disks in response to specific user requests.

II. SYSTEM OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTS (SNA)

(Item 4 (a))

5. The Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat, on behalf of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts (IWGNA) has sent letters to selected countries requesting funding for the remaining SNA revision programme in 1991-1993. Although the member organizations of the IWGNA pledged significant additional funds, those funds fall short of what is needed for a successful completion of the revised SNA by 1993.

6. The Fourth Expert Group Meeting on SNA Co-ordination, sponsored by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat and hosted by the World Bank,

was held in Washington, D.C., from 3 to 7 December 1990. In addition to the expert members of the SNA Co-ordinating Group, an expert from Canada was also invited. The session was devoted to the discussion of links between SNA and environmental accounting. Considerable progress was made on most of the outstanding issues.

7. Among others, the following conclusions were reached. The Group confirmed that the revised SNA was intended for world-wide application; hence, it should accommodate - either as-is or with some clarifications - many of the structural features of economies of countries in transition. Other features would have to be dealt with in the handbook on the use of SNA in transition economies.

8. It was agreed that the revised SNA would recognize the importance of the development of environmental accounting and would explain why environmental concerns were not fully reflected in the central system. The derivation of environmentally adjusted aggregates would also be discussed. A study designed to help experts decide whether or not to include a depletion of natural resources adjustment in the central framework would be carried out on an urgent basis. A study to ascertain which natural assets should be included in economic assets in the SNA would also be undertaken. The Group agreed that the general definition of an asset would include ownership and expectations of future economic benefits as necessary criteria. All expenditures on mineral exploration would be classified as fixed capital formation but expenditures on research and development would continue to be treated as consumption and not as capital formation (the revised SNA will describe satellite accounts for research and development). It was agreed that in the extended supply and use table, distinction should be made between "commercial/market" producers and "non-commercial/non-market" producers; the latter would include own-account producers. Most experts agreed that some of the subsidies (their delimitation require further study) of goods and services destined for final consumption should be treated as government consumption expenditures, while others would continue to be treated as true subsidies.

9. A pilot project on environmental accounting would be carried out by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat in collaboration with the World Bank and the Statistical Office of Papua New Guinea. A joint mission to test the implementation of the environmental framework proposed in the draft Handbook on Environmental Accounting was scheduled for 15 to 31 January 1991.

10. The Fifth Expert Group Meeting on SNA Co-ordination would be sponsored by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat and hosted by the Central Statistical Office of Zimbabwe, in Harare, from 8 to 17 April 1991. As indicated in document E/CN.3/1991/5, the meeting would review comments received from the 1990 round of regional commission meetings and the present session of the Statistical Commission. The meeting would review chapters and annexes not previously discussed by the experts. It would also review the decisions taken by technical working groups in the implementation or further elaboration of general guidelines adopted by the Fourth Expert Group Meeting on SNA Co-ordination in December 1990.

11. In preparation for the April 1991 Expert Group Meeting, the IWGNA created technical working groups to deal with the implementation and/or further elaboration

of the general guidelines adopted by the Fourth Expert Group Meeting on SNA Co-ordination in December 1990.

12. CMEA reported that it was organizing a meeting in Moscow, from 7 to 11 January 1991, to discuss further the methodological problems encountered in the calculation of gross domestic product (GDP) and related aggregates in countries in transition. Members of the IWGNA have been invited to help acquaint CMEA member countries with the revised SNA and its application in countries in transition.

III. PRICE STATISTICS

(Item 7)

13. The Asia Pacific Seminar on the Use of Purchasing Power Parities was held in Niigata, Japan (16-30 November 1990). The Seminar was organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), with financial support from the Government of Japan. The Seminar was attended by representatives from 18 countries and areas in the region - namely, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Fiji, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam. Representatives of the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific also participated.

14. The Seminar placed emphasis on the status and progress of the International Comparison Programme (ICP) in the ESCAP region. Discussion was accordingly focused on the uses of ICP results and on the development and adoption of the Programme for phase-VI comparison in the region. For that purpose the Seminar considered 14 documents, and each participating country presented a paper on its national experience with ICP. The discussion covered the report on the phase-V (1985) ESCAP comparison results and the draft of the ICP Handbook. The Seminar adopted a report that reflected the consensus on a number of important issues relating to the methodology and the future programme of work of the ESCAP comparison in phase VI.

15. It was agreed at the Seminar that the methodology to be applied in the phase-VI regional comparison should basically be the same as that of phase V. As regards the methodology of the global comparison, the Seminar considered the core commodity approach based on a paper by the Statistical Office that presented a preliminary list of core commodities for selected sub-categories of GDP. The Seminar supported the new approach and agreed that the core commodities should be incorporated in the list of regional specifications. The Seminar recognized that it was essential to conduct bilateral visits to and organize a workshop for the participating countries to help finalize the regional list of specifications.

16. In discussing the proposed programme of work for phase-VI comparison in the ESCAP region, the Seminar agreed to choose 1992 as reference year for the next round of regional comparison. The Seminar noted that many countries would need both technical and financial assistance to carry out basic data collection. Participants were pleased that the Government of Japan had agreed to consider funding the activities for implementing phase VI. A full-time expert from outside

sources could be made available to assist the secretariat of ESCAP in co-ordination and methodological work.

IV. INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS

(Item 8)

17. In connection with the processing of data for the World Programme of Industrial Statistics, a new microcomputer system was developed and implemented. The system included components for converting, editing and screening data, and for creating publication-quality tables.

V. POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUSES

(Item 9 (a))

18. As indicated in paragraph 45 of E/CN.3/1991/24, a listing of countries and the planned or actual dates of their censuses are shown in annex II.

VI. CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

(Item 9 (b))

19. A project proposal for implementing the International Programme for Accelerating the Improvement of Vital Statistics and Civil Registration Systems has been prepared and submitted to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and other donor agencies for their financial support. UNFPA has indicated its readiness to support the training component of the project. Accordingly, substantive preparations were started to conduct training workshops in the coming years.

VII. SOCIAL STATISTICS AND INDICATORS

(Item 9 (c))

20. A special questionnaire on aging was sent in September 1990 to each national statistical office to obtain data of particular relevance to population aging and the elderly. The intention is to augment the data-base and bring out a special volume of the Demographic Yearbook on population aging.

21. The work on special population statistics has resulted in the production of a statistical chart on children, Early Child Development Learning Achievement, 1990 (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.Y/5), in collaboration with UNESCO, UNICEF and WHO. In addition, the first Disability Statistics Compendium (ST/ESA/SER.Y/4) was completed. It provides detailed national data for 55 countries, covering 12 major demographic and socio-economic topics concerning disability. Also, the Statistical Office produced, collaboratively with WHO, a special article "International statistics on causes of disability" for publication in the 1990 World Health Statistics Annual.

22. The Statistical Office has begun work on a three-year project entitled "Strengthening the United Nations Demographic Yearbook Data-base System". The project, funded by UNFPA, is designed to increase the availability and effective use of a major source of demographic and related statistics. The long-range objective of the project is to develop an integrated and streamlined international data-base system for rapid retrieval and efficient use of the 40 years of data for international population programmes and studies in a timely way. A consultant completed an in-depth review of the nature and comprehensiveness of available statistics and made a set of recommendations for developing the data-base.

VIII. ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS

(Item 9 (e))

23. A representative of the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat chaired the session on "The role of statistical offices in environmental statistics" as part of the Second Independent Conference of the International Association for Official Statistics (Beijing, 16-19 October 1990). The major issues discussed during the session were the following: structure and organization of environment statistics; data characteristics; data needs and users; environmental accounting; and the role of central statistical offices.

24. Following the meeting, a seminar/discussion was held with officials from the State Statistical Bureau and the National Environmental Protection Agency (Beijing, 22-26 October 1990). The three-day seminar focused on environment statistics, integrated economic/environmental accounting, and concepts and methods of environmentally sound and sustainable development. The discussion with Chinese officials focused on possible co-operation with the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat in terms of providing technical assistance for the further expansion of existing statistics beyond the current focus on environmental protection and in applying the environmental accounting framework to a selected province of China.

25. The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, under the aegis of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific, held a workshop, managing national statistical offices in the 1990s (Tokyo, 30 October-3 November 1990) which devoted half of its time to environment statistics. A representative of the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat presented key issues in environment statistics and environmental accounting. The meeting concluded that the Statistical Office should suggest key environmental indicators to be compiled by countries in accordance with their level of development and circumstances and should update and produce an inventory of environment statistics of member States.

26. Based on the recommendations of the Consultative Meeting on Urban Environmental Data and Information Systems (World Bank, 1989), the Technical Working Group on Urban Environmental Indicators was convened to agree on a core set of indicators for urban environmental policy analysis and decision-making (Barcelona, 25-29 September 1990).

27. With regard to environmental accounting, a first draft of the handbook of environmental accounting has been prepared and was discussed at an Expert Group Meeting on the Revision of the SNA held at the World Bank (Washington, 3-7 December 1990). The meeting also explored the links between the revised SNA and the satellite system of environmental accounts.

IX. DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATION OF METHODOLOGICAL WORK

(Item 10)

28. An inter-agency meeting on improving the quality and consistency of international trade statistics and estimates was held in Geneva from 14 to 16 November 1990. It was attended by the international organizations that are major producers and users of international trade statistics. Steps were taken to improve collaboration among the producer and user organizations on collection, processing, sharing, dissemination and use of international trade statistics and estimates to better meet user needs; and to disseminate the necessary technical information on sources, concepts and definitions, and methods of processing and techniques used for making estimates.

29. Consultations have been held with the Customs Co-operation Council concerning revision of the Harmonized Commodity Classification and Coding System (HS) and implications for statistical classifications that are related to HS - namely, the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC), International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) and Central Product Classification (CPC).

30. Lecturing services were provided to the ECA Training Seminar on International Trade Statistics for English-speaking African Countries, held at Addis Ababa from 26 November to 3 December 1990. Lectures were given on United Nations concepts and definitions for international trade and computation of index numbers of international trade.

31. The Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat participated in the Expert Group Meeting on External Trade Statistics organized by the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance in Moscow from 9 to 12 October 1990 to consider revised methodological guidelines on external trade statistics for CMEA member countries which are close to the existing United Nations concepts and definitions in external trade statistics.

X. TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION

(Item 11 (a))

32. The Commission may wish to note that in June 1990, the UNDP Governing Council adopted decision 90/26 which, combined with other major legislative pieces - in particular, General Assembly resolution 44/211 - provides the overall framework of the new agency support costs system. The implementation of these decisions is intended to establish the foundations for the promotion of national execution as

well as new arrangements between funding and technical backstopping agencies. Effective 1 January 1992, the United Nations operational activities will be placed on a course of change and reform. UNDP and UNFPA have already begun the process of consultations with the United Nations and United Nations agencies regarding the implementation of the various provisions of the decision, as mandated by the Governing Council. Since the consultations are in progress, an oral report will be delivered to the Commission on the issue.

Annex I

OUTPUTS COMPLETED BY THE STATISTICAL OFFICE IN THE BIENNIUM 1988-1989 AND IN 1990

A. Department of International Economic and Social Affairs

Subprogramme 1: Development of concepts and methods

1. The following publications were issued or submitted for printing:

(a) Classification by Broad Economic Categories, Rev.3 (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/53, Rev.3), Sales No. 89.XVII.4;

(b) Provisional Central Product Classification (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/77), in press;

(c) Supplementary Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses (ST/ESA/SER.M/67/Add.1), Sales No. 90.XVII.9;

(d) International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/4/Rev.3), Sales No. 90.XVII.11;

(e) Customs Areas of the World (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/30/Rev.2), Sales No. 89.XVII.12;

(f) Basic Methodological Principles Governing the Compilation of the System of Statistical Balances of the National Economy (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.F/17//Rev.1), Sales Nos. (vol. I) 89.XVII.5 and (vol. II) 89.XVII.3;

(g) Development of Statistical Concepts and Methods on Disability for Household Surveys (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.F/38), Sales No. 88.XVII.4;

(h) Improving Statistics and Indicators on Women Using Household Surveys (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.F/48), Sales No. 88.XVII.11;

(i) Handbook of Vital Statistics System and Methods, vol.I (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.F/35), in press;

(j) Handbook of National Accounting - Public Sector Accounts (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.F/50), Sales No. 88.XVII.5;

(k) Concepts and Methods of Environment Statistics - Human Settlements Statistics: A Technical Report (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.F/51), Sales No. 88.XVII.14;

(l) Methods of Measuring Women's Participation in the Informal Sector (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.F/46), Sales No. 90.XVII.16;

(m) Manual on Population Census Data Processing Using Microcomputers (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.F/53), Sales No. 90.XVII.19.

2. The following expert group meetings, seminars and workshops were held:

(a) Expert Group Meeting (SNA Review) on Public Sector Accounts (sponsored by the International Monetary Fund), Washington, D.C., 25-29 January 1988; report issued by IMF;

(b) Expert Group Meeting (SNA Review) on Production Accounts and Input/Output Tables (sponsored by the Statistical Office in co-operation with UNIDO), Vienna, 21-30 March 1988; report issued by UNIDO;

(c) Expert Group Meeting on Harmonization of Economic Classifications, New York, 25-29 April 1988 (for the report of the meeting, see ESA/STAT/AC.32/9);

(d) Expert Group Meeting on ICP Methodology, convened jointly by EUROSTAT, OECD, and the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat, Luxembourg, 6-10 June 1988; report issued by EUROSTAT;

(e) Expert Group Meeting (SNA Review) on Financial Flows and Balances (sponsored by the International Monetary Fund), Washington, D.C., 6-14 September 1988; report issued by IMF;

(f) Four Expert Group Meetings on SNA Co-ordination: one sponsored by EUROSTAT, Luxembourg (January 1989) and three sponsored by Statistical Office - two in New York (July 1989 and September 1989) and one (hosted by the World Bank) in Washington, D.C. (3-7 December 1990). For results of these meetings, see document E/CN.3/1991/5;

(g) Workshop on International Comparison Programme (ICP), Beijing, 3-14 April 1989. Three papers were prepared for the Workshop: "Processing of the ICP basic data", "Expenditure data needed for participation in the ICP" and "A short description of the System of National Accounts in countries with centrally planned economies";

(h) Expert Group Meeting on ICP Methodology, convened jointly by EUROSTAT, OECD and the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat, Paris, 14-16 June 1989; report issued by OECD;

(i) Fourth meeting of the Ad Hoc Voorburg Group on Service Statistics (hosted by Statistics Canada), Ottawa, 2-5 October 1989; report issued by Statistics Canada;

(j) Expert Group Meeting on the Reconciliation of SNA and MPS Standards of National Accounting, Moscow, December 1989;

(k) Six regional meetings on the review of the revised SNA (sponsored by the regional commissions), ECE region, Geneva, 10-13 September 1990; ECA region, Addis Ababa, 16-25 July 1990; ESCAP region, Bangkok, 15-24 August 1990 (Asian continent countries); and Suva, 29 August-7 September 1990 (Pacific countries); ECLAC region, Rio de Janeiro, 18-28 September 1990; ESCWA region, Tunis, June 1989. For results of these meetings see document E/CN.3/1991/5);

(l) Conference on the International Comparison Programme (ICP), sponsored by the World Bank in co-operation with the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat and hosted by the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, 1-3 August 1990. The detailed report, which is being prepared by the World Bank, has not yet been released. Summary information is contained in document E/CN.3/1991/17;

(m) Two regional workshops on Methods of Collecting and Analysing Statistics on Women in the Informal Sector and their Contribution to National Product (organized with United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW)), Lusaka, 23-27 July 1990, Ouagadougou, 6-10 October 1990;

(n) Fifth meeting of the Ad Hoc Voorburg Group on Service Statistics (hosted by Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques), Paris, 1-5 October 1990. The report, which is being prepared by INSEE of France, has not yet been released;

(o) Workshop on Managing National Statistical Offices in the 1990s (sponsored by SIAP, Tokyo, 30 October-3 November 1990).

3. The following report was prepared:

"Labour force and changing age structure in selected developed countries: a comparative study" (CES/SEM.28/R.35).

4. The following working papers were prepared:

(a) "Handbook on the compilation of statistics on women in the informal sector in industry, trade and services in Africa", prepared jointly by the Economic Commission for Africa, the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, and the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat;

(b) "Synthesis of pilot studies on compilation of statistics on women in the informal sector in industry, trade and services in four African countries", prepared jointly by the Economic Commission for Africa, the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, and the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat.

5. Other achievements related to the development of concepts and methods include the following:

(a) "Regionalization of the ICP and its consequences", paper prepared by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat for the Expert Group Meeting on ICP, Luxembourg, 6-10 June 1988;

(b) "Total consumption of the population in the System of National Accounts and in the System of Statistical Balances of the National Economy", paper prepared by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat for the European Comparison Meeting, Vienna, 6-9 March 1989;

(c) "What is to be reflected by price indices and what should not be? (Hidden price changes and similar phenomena)", and "Recent developments in the national accounting of the centrally planned economies", issue papers prepared by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat for the World Bank Planning Conference on the Measurement and Evaluation of the Macroeconomic Performance of Selected Centrally Planned Economies and Yugoslavia, Washington, D.C., 16-17 May 1989;

(d) "Organization of the ICP and its funding", paper prepared by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat for the World Bank Seminar on ICP, Washington, D.C., 8 June 1989;

(e) "Consistency of multilateral comparison formulae with national accounting methods", paper prepared by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat for the Expert Group Meeting on ICP Methodology, Paris, 14-16 June 1989;

(f) "A note on the concept of services", paper prepared by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat for the fourth meeting of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics, Ottawa, 2-5 October 1989;

(g) "The path from revision 2 to revision 3 of the ISIC", prepared by the Statistical Office for the 4th International Round Table on Business Survey Frames, Newport (United Kingdom), 9-12 October 1989;

(h) "Development of an industrial statistics framework" prepared by the Statistical Office for the International Seminar of Analysis on China's 1985 Industrial Census Results, scheduled to be held in Beijing, 1-7 June 1989. The paper was subsequently published by the secretariat of the Seminar, in March 1990;

(i) "On a new method of linking regional results into a global comparison in phase VI", paper prepared by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat for the Asia/Pacific Seminar on the Use of Purchasing Power Parities, Niigata, 26-30 November 1990;

(j) "The UNSO policy and practice for dissemination of ICP results", paper prepared by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat for the Asia/Pacific Seminar on the Use of Purchasing Power Parities, Niigata, 26-30 November 1990.

6. Information on other work done is contained in the reports of the Secretary-General before the Commission - in particular, those in the field of national accounts (E/CN.3/1991/5, E/CN.3/1991/13); services (E/CN.3/1991/15); price (E/CN.3/1991/17); industry (E/CN.3/1991/18); civil registration (E/CN.3/1991/19); environment (E/CN.3/1991/23); and methodology (E/CN.3/1991/24), which includes population and housing censuses.

Subprogramme 2: Application of advanced technology in collection, processing and dissemination of statistics

1. The following statistical compendiums were issued or submitted for printing:

(a) Monthly Bulletin of Statistics (monthly, 1988) (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.Q/181-192);

(b) Monthly Bulletin of Statistics (monthly, 1989) (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.Q/193-204);

(c) Monthly Bulletin of Statistics (monthly, 1990) (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.Q/205-217);

(d) Statistical Yearbook, 1985/86 (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.S/11), Sales No. 88.XVII.1;

(e) Statistical Yearbook, 1987 (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.S/12), Sales No. 90.XVII.1;

(f) World Statistics in Brief (United Nations Statistical Pocketbook), twelfth edition (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.V/12), Sales No. 88.XVII.8;

(g) World Statistics in Brief (United Nations Statistical Pocketbook), thirteenth edition (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.V/13), Sales No. 90.XVII.5.

Subprogramme 3: National accounts, industry, international trade and transport statistics

1. The following publications were issued or submitted for printing:

(a) National Accounts Statistics: Main Aggregates and Detailed Tables, 1986 (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.X/11), Sales No. 89.XVII.7;

(b) National Accounts Statistics: Main Aggregates and Detailed Tables, 1987 (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.X/13), Sales No. 90.XVII.12;

(c) National Accounts Statistics: Analysis of Main Aggregates, 1986 (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.X/12). Sales No. 89.XVII.8;

(d) National Accounts Statistics: Analysis of Main Aggregates, 1987 (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.X/14), Sales No. 90.XVII.8;

(e) 1986 International Trade Statistics Yearbook, volumes I and II (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.G/35), Sales No. 88.XVII.2;

(f) 1987 International Trade Statistics Yearbook, volumes I and II (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.G/36), Sales No. 89.XVII.2;

(g) 1988 International Trade Statistics Yearbook, volumes I and II (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.G/37), Sales No. 90.XVII.6;

(h) Commodity Trade Statistics, Ser. D (28 fascicles, 1988);

(i) Commodity Trade Statistics, Ser. D (28 fascicles, 1989);

(j) Commodity Trade Statistics, Ser. D (25 fascicles, 1990);

(k) 1984 World Trade Annual;*

(l) 1984 Supplement to the World Trade Annual;*

(m) 1985 World Trade Annual;*

(n) 1985 Supplement to the World Trade Annual;*

(o) 1986 World Trade Annual;*

(p) 1986 International Sea-borne Trade Statistics Yearbook (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.D/86), Sales No. 88.XVII.13;

(q) Industrial Statistics Yearbook, 1986, vols. I (General Industrial Statistics) and II (Commodity Production Statistics) (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.P/25), Sales Nos. (vol. I) 88.XVII.9 and (vol. II) 88.XVII.10;

(r) Industrial Statistics Yearbook, 1987, vols. I (General Industrial Statistics) and II (Commodity Production Statistics) (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.P/26), Sales Nos. (vol. I) 89.XVII.13 and (vol. II) 89.XVII.14;

(s) Industrial Statistics Yearbook, 1988, vols. I (General Industrial Statistics) and II (Commodity Production Statistics) (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.P/28), Sales No. 90.XVII.13.

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* These volumes are published by Walker, New York, by agreement with the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat.

Subprogramme 4: Energy and related statistics

The following publications were issued:

(a) Energy Statistics Yearbook, 1986 (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.J/30), Sales No. 88.XVII.3;

(b) Energy Statistics Yearbook, 1987 (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.J/31), Sales No. 89.XVII.10;

(c) Energy Statistics Yearbook, 1988 (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.J/32), Sales No. 90.XVII.4;

(d) Energy Balances and Electricity Profiles, 1986 (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.W/4), Sales No. 88.XVII.7;

(e) Energy Balances and Electricity Profiles, 1988 (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.W/5), Sales No. 90.XVII.15.

Subprogramme 5: Price statistics and related areas

Methods used in Compiling the United Nations Price Indexes for External Trade, vol. II (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/82, vol. II) in press.

Subprogramme 6: Social, demographic and environment statistics

(a) Demographic Yearbook, 1987 (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.R/17), Sales No. 88.XIII.1;

(b) Demographic Yearbook, 1988 (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.R/18), Sales No. 89.XIII.1;

(c) Population and Vital Statistics Report (quarterly, 1988, 1989 and 1990) (ST/ESA/SER.A/164-167), four issues in 1988; (ST/ESA/SER.A/168-171), four issues in 1989; (ST/ESA/SER.A/172-175), four issues in 1990;

(d) Handbook on Social Indicators (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.F/49), Sales No. 89.XVII.6;

(e) Compendium of Statistics and Indicators on the Situation of Women 1986 (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.K/5), Sales No. 88.XVII.6;

(f) Handbook for National Statistical Data Bases on Women and Development (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.K/6), Sales No. 89.XVII.9;

(g) Statistics and Indicators on Women in Africa, 1986 (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.K/7), Sales No. 89.XVII.11;

(h) Situation of Women, 1990, Selected Indicators (wall chart) (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.K/8), Sales No. 90.XVII.3A;

(i) Disability Statistics Data Base 1975-1986: A Technical Manual (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.Y/3), Sales No. 88.XVII.12;

(j) Disability Statistics Compendium (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.Y/4), Sales No. 90.XVII.17;

(k) Early Child Development and Learning Achievement (wall chart) (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.Y/5), Sales No. 90.XVII.14.

Subprogramme 7: Co-ordination of international statistical programmes

The Statistical Commission's Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination held its thirteenth session in Geneva from 11 to 14 September 1989. The report of that session is before the Commission (E/CN.3/1991/2). Documents prepared for that session included:

(a) Proposals and outlines for documentation for the twenty-sixth session of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/AC.1/1989/1);

(b) Summary of comments of members of the Statistical Commission (on the report of the Secretary-General on general development and integration of methodological work (E/CN.3/1989/15, E/CN.3/AC.1/1989/R.3);

(c) Inventory of statistical data collection activities (of the United Nations system and selected non-United Nations organizations) (E/CN.3/AC.1/1989/R.4);

(d) Progress report on co-ordination of statistical data collection activities of non-statistical units of international organizations (E/CN.3/AC.1/1989/R.5).

The ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities held its twenty-third session at Geneva from 19 to 23 June 1989 and its twenty-fourth session at Vienna from 18 to 22 June 1990. Reports of these meetings are contained in documents ACC/1989/PG/6 and ACC/1990/PG/6, respectively. The Sub-Committee further considered the review arrangements which had been put in place in most organizations for co-ordination of ad hoc statistical inquiries to countries from non-statistical units of international organizations. For most organizations, there had been no new problems or need for initiatives in that field. The Sub-Committee stressed the importance of co-ordination of activities of the international organizations related to statistical development in the countries in transition. These activities were new, had emerged suddenly, involved many national and international organizations and would potentially involve very large amounts of technical and financial resources over a long period of time.

The Sub-Committee also further considered the co-ordination aspects of the development of the initiative being taken by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) relating to monitoring the achievement of social goals in the 1990s, including the role of the regional commissions in this initiative (for more details, see E/CN.3/1991/20). The Sub-Committee also continued to review co-ordination among internationally sponsored household survey programmes and noted positive results in enhancing this co-ordination in 1989/1990

period. The Sub-Committee took steps to maintain and improve co-ordination of international statistical activities in a large number of areas which are described in the reports of the Sub-Committee. In addition, the co-ordination in various fields and concerns of statistics is reported in other documents under specific agenda items of the Commission, in particular, the numerous meetings of the Intersecretariat Working Group on the SNA, described in paper E/CN.3/1991/5, and the meeting of the Intersecretariat Working Group on ICP described in E/CN.3/1991/17.

Subprogramme 8: Support of technical co-operation

Technical co-operation projects in statistics delivered during the period 1988-1989 amounted to $50.7 million and the amount budgeted for 1990 is $31.4 million. The total number of projects relating to the above expenditure was 235 in 102 countries - 112 projects in demographic statistics/population census, 12 in economic statistics, 27 in vital statistics, and 28 in data processing (see E/CN.3/1991/28).

The Central Co-ordinating Unit (CCU) of NHSCP has produced the June and December 1989 and June 1990 issues of the NHSCP Reporter and published three technical studies, "Assessing the nutritional status of young children", "Literacy through household surveys", and "Household income and expenditure surveys". Work on the compilation of a further six technical studies is in an advanced stage of finalization. They include the following: "Sampling errors in national household surveys"; "Guidelines for measuring health through household surveys"; "Sampling for rare and elusive populations in household surveys"; "Surveys on household consumption of energy"; "Methodology of household surveys of agriculture in Africa"; and "Surveys of household economic activities: a technical study" (see E/CN.3/1991/26 and E/CN.3/1991/28).

1. The following expert group meetings, seminars and training workshops were held:

(a) Interregional Workshop on Statistical Data Processing and Data Base in the Developing Countries, Geneva, 30 May-3 June 1988 (for report, see INT/88/R92/16);

(b) International Conference on Dissemination and Use of Census Data in Egypt (in collaboration with Egypt's Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS)), Cairo, 9-13 October 1988, report issued by CAPMAS;

(c) Interregional Workshop on Population Database and Related Topics (sponsored by UNFPA in collaboration with Netherlands Central Bureau of Statistics), Voorburg, 6-10 November 1989 (for report, see INT/88/P07);

(d) Interregional Workshop on Planning, Organization and Administration of Large-Scale Demographic and Social Data Collection Activities for Small Areas, Bangkok, 20-24 November 1989 (organized jointly with the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP);

(e) Training Workshop on Economic Activity Topics in Population Censuses (organized by ECA with collaboration of the ILO and Statistical Office), Addis Ababa, November 1989;

(f) National Accounts Development and Training Project, New York, November 1989;

(g) Civil Registration Workshops (funded by UNFPA), Nairobi, November 1989;

(h) International Training Workshop on Disability Statistics (conducted by United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat in collaboration with the Government of Malta, Ministry for Social Policy and the International Institute on Aging (INIA), held in Malta, 27 November to 6 December 1989;

(i) Interregional Workshop on External Trade Statistics (organized by the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat), Accra, 27 November-12 December 1989 (for report, see INT/89/R97);

(j) Workshop on Economic Statistics in Population and Housing Censuses (organized by the ILO), Moscow, 21-29 November 1990 (for report, see INT/90/R94);

(k) Training Seminar on International Trade Statistics for English-speaking African Countries (organized by ECA), 26 November-3 December 1990; report to be issued.

Annex II

DATES OF NATIONAL POPULATION AND/OR HOUSING CENSUSES TAKEN DURING THE DECADE 1975-1984 AND TAKEN OR ANTICIPATED DURING THE DECADE 1985-1994

In accordance with resolution 1974 (LVIII) of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, the 1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme covered the 10-year period from 1975 through 1984 and, in accordance with resolution 1985/8, the 1990 World Population and Housing Census Programme covers the 1985-1994 decade.

This note shows (a) the date of the population and/or housing census for each country or area that participated in the 1980 Programme and (b) the actual date for each country or area that has already conducted a population census in the 1990 Programme or the anticipated date for each country or area for which it can be assumed at this time that a census is likely to be held before the end of 1994.

Unless otherwise noted, the dates refer to complete (100 per cent) enumeration, even though some topics may have been investigated on a sample basis. Indications and symbols are used as follows:

date	Official national census date.
date*	Provisional national census date.
(date)	Anticipated by the Statistical Office of the United Nations on the basis of established pattern of census taking.
(....)	A reasonable anticipation that a census will be held during the decade but there is no established pattern on which to predict a date.
....	No basis for anticipation at this time.
-	No census taken.
P	Population census.
H	Housing census.
T	The census was reported taken (only 1990).
A	Provision by the United Nations of a resident technical expert or financial assistance.

Country or area	Census date			
	1980 Round		1990 Round	
	1975-1979	1980-1984	1985-1989	1990-1994
AFRICA				
Algeria	12 II 1977 PHA	-	IV 1987 PH	-
Angola	-	II 1983 PHA (1)	-	(....)
Benin	20-30 III 1979 PHA	-	-	1991 PHA *
Botswana	-	12-26 VIII 1981 PHA	-	VIII 1991 PHA *
Br.Indian Ocean Terr....(2)	-	-	-	....
Burkina Faso	1-7 XII 1975 P A (3)	-	10-20 XII 1985 P A	-
Burundi	15/16 VIII 1979 P A	-	-	16-31 VIII 1990 PHAT
Cameroon	9 IV 1976 PHA	-	IV 1987 PHA	-
Cape Verde	-	1/2 VI 1980 PHA	-	VI 1990 PHAT
Central African Republic	8-22 XII 1975 P A (4)	-	8 XII 1988 PHA	-
Chad.....(5)	-	-	-	IV 1992 PHA*
Comoros	-	15 IX 1980 PHA	-	1991 PHA*
Congo	-	22 XII 1984 PHA	-	(1994 P)
Cote d'Ivoire	30 IV 1975 P A	-	III 1988 PHA	-
Djibouti	-	3 I 1983 P A	-	(....)
Egypt	22/23 XI 1976 PHA	-	17/18 XI 1986 PH	-
Equatorial Guinea	-	4-17 VII 1983 P A	-	(1993 P)
Ethiopia	-	9 V 1984 PHA	-	(....)
Gabon	-	1-31 VIII 1981 P A	-	(....)
Gambia	-	15 IV 1983 PHA	-	(1993 P)
Ghana	-	11 III 1984 P A	-	(....)
Guinea	-	4-17 II 1983 P A	-	(....)
Guinea-Bissau	16-30 IV 1979 PHA	-	-	IV 1991 PA*
Kenya	24 VIII 1979 P A	-	24/25 VIII 1989 PA	-
Lesotho	12 IV 1976 P A	-	12 IV 1986 PA	-
Liberia	-	1-14 II 1984 PHA	-	(1994 P)
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	-	31 VII 1984 P A	-	(....)
Madagascar	1974/1975 PHA (6)	-	-	1991 PHA*
Malawi	20 IX-10 X 1977 P A	-	1-21 IX 1987 PHA	-
Mali	1-16 XII 1976 P A	-	1-30 IV 1987 PHA	-
Mauritania	1 I 1977 P A (7)	-	5-20 IV 1988 PHA	-
Mauritius	-	2 VII 1983 P A	-	VII 1990 PAT
.....	-	III-VI 1983 H	-	II 1990 H T
Morocco	-	3-21 IX 1982 PHA	-	1992 PH *
Mozambique	-	1 VIII 1980 P A	-	....
Namibia.....(8)	-	-	-	1991 PHA*

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Country or area	Census date: 1980 Round, 1975-1979	1980 Round, 1980-1984	1990 Round, 1985-1989	1990 Round, 1990-1994
Niger	20 XI 1977 P A (9)	-	20 V -3 VI 1988 PHA	-
Nigeria (10)	-	-	-	XI 1991 PA *
Reunion	-	9 III 1982 P	-	(....)
Rwanda	15/16 VIII 1978 PHA	-	-	VIII 1991 PHA *
St.Helena	31 X 1976 PH	-	22 II 1987 PH	-
Sao Tome and Principe	-	15 VIII 1981 PHA	-	1991 PHA*
Senegal	16 IV 1976 P A	-	20 V-5 VI 1988 PHA	-
Seychelles	1 VIII 1977 P	-	-	....
Sierra Leone (11)	-	-	15 XII 1985 PHA	-
Somalia	7 II 1975 P A (12)	-	II 1987 PHA (13)	-
South Africa	-	6 V 1980 PH	5 III 1985 PH	(1990 P)
Sudan	-	1 II 1983 PHA	-	(1993 P)
Swaziland	25/26 VIII 1976 P A	-	25 VIII 1986 PHA	-
Togo	-	22 XI 1981 PHA	-	XI 1991 PHA *
Tunisia	8 V 1975 PHA	30 III 1984 PH	-	(....)
Uganda	-	18 I 1980 PHA	-	I 1991 PHA *
United Rep. of Tanzania	26/27 VIII 1978 P	-	28 VIII 1988 PHA	-
Zaire	-	1 VII 1984 P A	-	(....)
Zambia	-	25 VIII 1980 PHA	-	20 VIII 1990 PHAT
Zimbabwe	-	18 VIII 1982 P A	-	VIII 1992 PHA *
AMERICA, NORTH				
Anguilla	-	1984 P	-	....
Antigua and Barbuda	-	1 V 1982 H	-	(....)
Aruba	-	1 II 1981 PH	-	(....)
Bahamas	-	12 V 1980 PH	-	2 V 1990 PHT
Barbados	-	12 V 1980 PHA	-	2 V 1990 PHT
Belize	-	12 V 1980 PHA	-	1991 P *
Bermuda	-	12 V 1980 PH	-	2 V 1990 PHT
British Virgin Islands	-	12 V 1980 PHA	-	2 V 1990 PHT
Canada	1 VI 1976 PH	3 VI 1981 P	3 VI 1986 PH	VI 1991 PH
Cayman Islands	8 X 1979 PHA	-	-	....
Costa Rica	-	10 VI 1984 PHA	-	1992 PH *
Cuba	-	11 IX 1981 PHA	-	(....)
Dominica	-	7 IV 1981 PHA	-	2 V 1990 PHT
Dominican Republic	-	12 XII 1981 PHA	-	1990 PH *
El Salvador (14)	-	-	-	1992 PHA *
Greenland	26 X 1976 PH	-	-	....
Grenada	-	30 IV 1981 PHA	-	2 V 1990 PHT
Guadeloupe	-	9 III 1982 PH	-	(....)
Guatemala	-	23 III 1981 PHA	-	IV 1992 PHA *
Haiti	-	30 VIII 1982 PHA	-	1992 PHA *

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Country or area	Census date			
	1980 Round		1990 Round	
	1975-1979	1980-1984	1985-1989	1990-1994
Honduras.....(15)	-	-	V 1988 PHA	-
Jamaica.....	-	8 VI 1982 PHA	-	1991 P *
Martinique.....	-	9 III 1982 PH	-	(....)
Mexico.....	-	4 VI 1980 PH	-	III 1990 PHT
Montserrat.....	-	12 V 1980 PHA	-	2 V 1990 PHT
Netherlands Antilles....	-	1 II 1981 PH	-	13 V 1990 PH *
Nicaragua.....(16)	-	-	-	1990 PA *
Panama.....	-	11 V 1980 PH	-	13 V 1990 PHAT
Puerto Rico.....	-	1 IV 1980 PH	-	1 IV 1990 PHT
Saint Kitts and Nevis...	-	12 V 1980 PHA	-	2 V 1990 PHT
Saint Lucia.....	-	12 V 1980 PHA	-	2 V 1990 PHT
St. Pierre and Miquelon.	-	9 III 1982 PH	-	(....)
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.....	-	12 V 1980 PHA	-	2 V 1990 PHT
Trinidad and Tobago.....	-	12 V 1980 PHA	-	2 V 1990 PHT
Turks and Caicos Islands	-	12 V 1980 PHA	-	2 V 1990 PHT
United States of America	-	1 IV 1980 PH	-	1 IV 1990 PHT
U.S. Virgin Islands.....	-	1 IV 1980 PH	-	1 IV 1990 PHT
AMERICA, SOUTH				
Argentina.....	-	22 X 1980 PH	-	1991 PH *
Bolivia.....	29 IX 1976 PHA	-	-	1992 PH *
Brazil.....	-	1 IX 1980 P	-	(....)
Chile.....	-	1 I 1981 H	-	(....)
Colombia.....(17)	-	21 IV 1982 PH	-	1992 PH *
Ecuador.....	-	-	15 X 1985 PH	-
Falkland Is.(Malvinas)..	-	28 XI 1982 PH	-	25 XI 1990 PHA *
French Guiana.....	-	7 XII 1980 P	16 XI 1986	-
Guyana.....	-	9 III 1982 PH	-	(....)
Paraguay.....	-	12 V 1980 PHA	-	2 V 1990 PHT
Peru.....	-	11 VII 1982 PHA	-	1992 P *
Suriname.....	-	12 VII 1981 PHA	-	1991 P *
Uruguay.....	-	1 VII 1980 PHA	-	(....)
Venezuela.....	21 V 1975 PHA	-	23 X 1985 PHA	-
	-	20 X 1981 PH	-	X 1990 PHA *
ASIA				
Afghanistan.....	23/24 VI 1979 PHA (18)	-	-	....
Bahrain.....	-	5 IV 1981 PHA	-	1991 P *
Bangladesh.....	-	6/7 III 1981 PHA	-	1991 PHA *
Bhutan.....	-	I 1980-I 1981 P	-	(....)
Brunei Darussalam.....	-	26 VIII 1981 PHA	-	(1991 P)
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Country or area	Census date			
	1980 Round		1990 Round	
	1975-1979	1980-1984	1985-1989	1990-1994
China	-	1 VII 1982 P A	-	I VII 1990 PA T
Cyprus	30 IX 1976 P (19)	1 X 1982 H	-	(....)
Democratic Kampuchea....(20)	-	-	-	....
Democratic Yemen.....(21)	-	-	29/30 III 1988 PHA	-
East Timor	-	31 X 1980 P	-	(....)
Hong Kong	2 VIII 1976 PH	9 III 1981 PH	11 III 1986 PH (22)	1991 PH *
India	-	1 III 1981 P	-	1991 P *
.....	-	1980 H	-	1990 H *
Indonesia	-	31 X 1980 PHA	-	1990 PHA *
Iran	1 XI 1976 PHA	-	22 IX 1986 PH	-
Iraq	17 X 1977 PH	-	17 X 1987 PH	-
Israel	-	4 VI 1983 PH	-	(....)
Japan	1 X 1975 P	1 X 1980 P	1 X 1985 P	1 X 1990 PT
.....	1 X 1978 H	1 X 1983 H	1 X 1988 H	(1 X 1993 H)
Jordan	10/11 XI 1979 PHA	-	-	....
Korea, Dem.People's Rep.(23)	-	-	-	(1990 P)
Korea, Republic of	1 X 1975 PH	1 XI 1980 PH	1 XI 1985 PH	1 XI 1990 PH *
Kuwait	20/21 IV 1975 PHA (24)	20/21 IV 1980 PHA	20/21 IV 1985 PHA	(1990 PH)
Lao People's Dem.Rep.	1 II-31 III 1975 PHA (25)	-	1 III 1985 P A	-
Lebanon.....(26)	-	-	-	....
Macau	-	16 III 1981 PH	-	(....)
Malaysia	-	10 VI 1980 PH	-	1990 PHA *
Maldives	31 XII 1977 PHA	-	25-28 III 1985 PHA	15 III 1990 PHAT
Mongolia	5 I 1979 PHA	-	5 I 1989 PHA	-
Myanmar	-	31 III 1983 P A	-	1993 P *
Nepal	-	22 VI 1981 P A	-	1991 PA *
Oman	(27)	-	-	....
Pakistan	-	1 III 1981 P A	-	III 1991 PA *
.....	-	XII 1980 HA	-	1990 HA *
Palestine.....(28)	-	-	-	....
Gaza Strip.....(29)	-	-	-	....
Philippines	1-10 V 1975 P A	1 V 1980 PHA	-	1-20 V 1990 PHAT
Qatar	-	-	16 III 1986 PH	-
Saudi Arabia.....(30)	-	-	-	....
Singapore	-	24 VI 1980 PH	-	IV 1990 PHT
Sri Lanka	-	17 III 1981 PHA	-	1991 PHA *
Syrian Arab Republic....	-	8 IX 1981 PHA	-	1990 PHA *
Thailand	-	1 IV 1980 PHA	-	1990 PH *
Turkey	26 X 1975 PH	12 X 1980 P A	20 X 1985 PH	X 1990 PHT
United Arab Emirates....	31 XII 1975 PHA	15 XII 1980 PHA	17-23 XII 1985 PH	XII 1990 PH *
Viet Nam	1 X 1979 P A	-	1-7 IV 1989 PHA	-
Yemen	1 II 1975 PHA	-	1-18 II 1986 PHA	-

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Country or area	Census date			
	1980 Round		1990 Round	
	1975-1979	1980-1984	1985-1989	1990-1994
EUROPE				
Albania	7 I 1979 P	-	12 IV 1989 PHA	-
Andorra	1 II 1975 P	-	-	....
Austria	-	12 V 1981 PH	-	V 1991 PH *
Belgium	-	1 III 1981 PH	-	(1991 PH)
Bulgaria	2 XII 1975 PH	-	4 XII 1985 PH	-
Channel Islands	-	5 IV 1981 PH	23 III 1986 P	(1991 PH)
Czechoslovakia	-	1 XI 1980 PH	-	(1990 PH)
Denmark	-	1 I 1981 PH	-	(1991 PH)
Faeroe Islands	22 IX 1977 PH	-	-	....
Finland	31 XII 1975 PH (31)	1 XI 1980 PH	17 XI 1985 PH	1990/1991 PH *
France	20 II 1975 PH	4 III 1982 PH	-	III 1990 PHT
German Democratic Rep.	-	31 XII 1981 PH	-	(1992 PH)
Germany, Federal Rep.of	-	-	25 V 1987 PH	-
Gibraltar	-	9 XI 1981 PH	-	(1991 PH)
Greece	-	5 IV 1981 PH	-	III 1991 PH
Holy See	(32)	(32)	(32)	(32)
Hungary	-	1 I 1980 PH	-	1 I 1990 PHT
Iceland	(33)	(33)	(33)	(33)
Ireland	1 IV 1979 P	5 IV 1981 PH	13 IV 1986 P	(....)
Isle of Man	4/5 IV 1976 PH	5/6 IV 1981 PH	6/7 IV 1986 PH	IV 1991 PH *
Italy	-	25 X 1981 PH	-	(1991 PH)
Liechtenstein	-	2 XII 1980 PH	-	(1990 PH)
Luxembourg	-	31 III 1981 PH	-	(1991 PH)
Malta	-	-	16 XI 1985 P	-
Monaco	1 II 1975 PH	4 III 1982 PH	-	(....)
Netherlands (34)	-	-	-	-
Norway	-	1 XI 1980 PH	-	....
Poland	7 XII 1978 PH	-	6 XII 1988 PH	-
Portugal	-	16 III 1981 PH	-	(1991 PH)
Romania	5 I 1977 PH	-	-	6 I 1992 PHA
San Marino	30 XI 1976 PH	-	-	....
Spain	-	1 III 1981 PH	-	(1991 PH)
Svalbard & Jan Mayen Is.(35)	-	-	-	-
Sweden	1 XI 1975 PH	15 IX 1980 PH	1 XI 1985 PH	13 XI 1990 PHT
Switzerland	-	2 XII 1980 PH	-	4 XII 1990 PH
United Kingdom				
England and Wales	-	5/6 IV 1981 PH	-	(1991 PH)
Northern Ireland	-	5/6 IV 1981 PH	-	1991 PH *
Scotland	-	5/6 IV 1981 PH	-	(1991 PH)
Yugoslavia	-	31 III 1981 PH	-	31 III 1991 PH *

/...

Country or area	Census date			
	1980 Round		1990 Round	
	1975-1979	1980-1984	1985-1989	1990-1994
OCEANIA				
American Samoa	-	1 IV 1980 PH	-	1 IV 1990 PHT
Australia	30 VI 1976 PH	30 VI 1981 PH	30 VI 1986 PH	VI 1991 PH *
Canton & Enderbury Is...(36)	-	-	-	....
Christmas Island (Aust.)	-	30 VI 1981 PH	-	(1991 PH)
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	-	30 VI 1981 PH	-	(1991 PH)
Cook Islands	1 XII 1976 PHA	1 XII 1981 PH	I XII 1986 PH	XII 1991 PH *
Fiji	13 IX 1976 P A	-	31 VIII 1986 P	-
French Polynesia	29 IV 1977 P	15 X 1983 P	-	(....)
Guam	-	1 IV 1980 PH	-	1 IV 1990 PHT
Johnston Island	-	1 IV 1980 P	-	1 IV 1990 PT
Kiribati	12/13 XII 1978 PH	-	9/10 V 1985 P	1990 PH *
Midway Islands.....(36)	-	-	-	....
Nauru	22 I 1977 PH	-	-	....
New Caledonia	23 IV 1976 PH	15 IV 1983 P	4 IV 1989 P	-
New Zealand	23 III 1976 PH	24 III 1981 PH	4 III 1986 PH	III 1991 PH *
Niue	28/29 IX 1976 PH	28 IX 1981 PH	29 IX 1986 PH	IX 1991 PH *
Norfolk Island	-	30 VI 1981 PH	30 VI 1986 PH	(1991 PH)
Pacific Islands	-	15 IX 1980 PHA	-	1990 PH *
Papua New Guinea	-	22 IX - 3 X 1980 P A	-	1990 PA *
Pitcairn .....(37)	-	-	31 XII 1987 P	-
Samoa	3 XI 1976 PHA	3 XI 1981 PHA	3/4 XI 1986 PHA	XI 1991 PH *
Solomon Islands	7/8 II 1976 P	-	23 XI 1986 PA	-
Tokelau	25 X 1976 PH	1 X 1982 P	1986 PH	(1992 P)
Tonga	30 XI 1976 PHA	(38)	28 XI 1986 P	-
Tuvalu	27 V 1979 P A	-	1985 P	-
Vanuatu	15/16 I 1979 P A	-	20 I 1986 P (39)	-
	-	-	V 1989 PA	-
Wake Island.....(36)	-	-	-	-
Wallis & Futuna Islands	26 III 1976 P	-	-	....
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS				
USSR	17 I 1979 P	-	12 I 1989 P	-
Byelorussian SSR	17 I 1979 P	-	12 I 1989 P	-
Ukrainian SSR	17 I 1979 P	-	12 I 1989 P	-

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Footnotes

(1) A population census only for the Province of Luanda.
(2) A population census of the Chagos Archipelago was conducted 30 June 1962, a census of Aldabra, Farquhar and Des Roches was conducted 4 May 1970.
(3) In other sources the date 1-10 December is found.
(4) Some results of estimation refer to 15 December.
(5) An administrative census was conducted March 1968.
(6) For provincial capitals, 1 December 1974; for Antananarivo and remaining urban areas, 17 February 1975; for rural areas, 1 June 1975.
(7) Enumeration of sedentary population 22 December 1976 - 5 January 1977 and of nomads January - April 1977. In some publications the 1 I 1977 is mentioned as census date.
(8) A census of population was conducted 6 May 1970. In a unofficial document a census of population is reported for 4 August 1981.
(9) Enumeration of northern nomads May and July 1977.
(10) A census of population was conducted 5-8 November 1963.
(11) A census of population was conducted 8 December 1974.
(12) Nomads were enumerated by sampling.
(13) Enumeration of settled population November 1986 and of nomads February 1987.
(14) A census of population was conducted 28 June 1971.
(15) A census of population was conducted 6 March 1974.
(16) A census of population was conducted 20 April 1971.
(17) A census of population was conducted 24 October 1973.
(18) The census of housing was conducted in urban areas only.
(19) A 'micro census' of population (a partial census) was carried out on 1 April 1973. Another population census was reported taken in September 1976. The coverage of both censuses is unknown.
(20) A census of population was conducted 17 April 1962.
(21) A census of population was conducted 14 May 1973.
(22) The 1986 Population By-census was based on one-in-seven sample of the population.
(23) A census of population was conducted 1 May 1944.
(24) Census of housing conducted in March.
(25) Partial census, covering the city and plain of Vientiane, the cities of Luang-Prabang, Ban Houei Sai, Sayaboury, Savannakhet and Pakse.
(26) A sample survey of population was conducted 8 November 1970.
(27) A sample survey of population was conducted in five towns in April 1975 and in eleven towns and some rural areas in 1978.
(28) A census of population was conducted 18 November 1931.
(29) A census of population was conducted 14 September 1967.
(30) A census of population was conducted 9-14 September 1974.
(31) Questionnaires were preprinted with answers obtained from variours registers such as the Central Register of Population, the Register of Completed education (1980) etc. and the respondents were required to correct any inaccurate information.
(32) No formal census was conducted. Population figures are compiled regularly from adminstrative records.
(33) Annual population figures are available from the National Registry since 1961.
(34) A census of population was conducted 28 February 1971.
(35) A census of population was conducted 1 November 1960. Inhabited only during winter season.
(36) No formal census was conducted. Population figures were compiled on 1 April 1980 from administrative records. A census of population was conducted 1 April 1970.
(37) No formal census was conducted. A count of numbers of each family group by name, sex, age and whether permanent or expatriate resident is made on 30 or 31 December each year.
(38) A mini population census with seven questions was conducted on 30 November 1984.
(39) Urban census.

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4-13 February 1991
Item 13 (b) of the provisional agenda*

PROGRAMME QUESTIONS: PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES AND PLANNING

Proposed programme of work of the Statistical Office for the biennium 1992-1993 and the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

Report of the Secretary-General

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* E/CN.3/1991/1 and Corr.1.

INTRODUCTION

1. At its present session, the Statistical Commission has before it a note by the Secretary-General on the proposed programme of work of the Statistical Office for the biennium 1992-1993 and related information (E/CN.3/1991/CRP.1) and the programme on statistics of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 24)), which was adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session (resolution 45/253) with the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its thirtieth session.

I. PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE STATISTICAL OFFICE FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

2. In accordance with the relevant regulations and rules governing programme planning 1/ the draft programme in statistics is submitted for review and comments by the Statistical Commission. The note by the Secretary-General mentioned above contains (a) the proposed programme of work of the Statistical Office for the biennium 1992-1993; (b) proposals on priorities in the work programme; and (c) indicative figures on Professional work-months assigned to each subprogramme and other components.

3. The proposed programme of work is tentative, since it has not yet been reviewed by the Programme Planning and Budgeting Board and is subject to change in the light of the Board's central review and the Secretary-General's decisions on the proposed programme budget as a whole. The Secretary-General's proposed programme budget will be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session for consideration and approval. The proposed programme of work is based on the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

4. The Commission should be aware that in accordance with regulations 3.1 and rules 103.2, 103.3 and 103.6 of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, although the suggestions or recommendations on the substance of the work programme made by the intergovernmental body concerned may be taken into account in the course of the preparation and review of the programme budget, the Secretary-General cannot commit himself to the adoption of such suggestions or recommendations before the proposed programme budget is completed. Furthermore, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 43/214 and 45/255 the programme budget outline for the biennium 1992-1993 has already been established and the Assembly has already taken a decision on the total preliminary estimates for that biennium. The draft programme of work for the biennium 1992-1993 submitted to the Commission has been prepared in this context.

5. The format of the proposed programme of work is in line with the new framework set out in the medium-term plan. Another new feature of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 is the elimination of programme element levels within subprogrammes. Accordingly, outputs are grouped in programmes and subprogrammes.

6. The Commission will recall that at a number of its previous sessions it had noted the difficulty involved in priority-setting at the programme element level. 2/ Moreover, the Commission's Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination, at its thirteenth session, requested the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat to "present its proposals on priorities at the output level, if feasible, and describe the basis or rationale for the proposed priorities" (E/CN.3/1991/2, para. 65). The Commission may therefore be pleased to note that under the new procedure established for priority-setting, priorities for the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 will be set at the output/services level rather than at the programme element level. High and low priority outputs must approximate 10-20 per cent of the resources requested for each programme. In addition to ensuring that there is no disproportion in resources devoted to high and low priority outputs, the instructions also provide that no designation of low priority should be given to any output within those subprogrammes designated as high priority in the medium-term plan. In the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, subprogrammes 1, 4 and 5 of the statistics programme are designated high priority. Accordingly, all low priority outputs in the statistics programme must be selected from subprogrammes 2 and 3.

7. Comparative information on resources for the biennium 1990-1991 and 1992-1993 is provided in tables 1 and 2 of document E/CN.3/1991/CRP.1. The tables contain indicative figures on Professional work-months, resources requested for consultancies, travel and ad hoc expert group meetings for the biennium 1992-1993 and comparable figures of approved resources for the previous biennium, with explanatory footnotes.

II. PROGRAMME ON STATISTICS OF THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997

8. The Commission will recall that it considered a draft of the statistics programme of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 at its twenty-fifth session (E/CN.3/1989/CRP.2). The draft was revised taking into account, inter alia, the comments of the Commission 3/ and was submitted in 1990, together with the introduction and the other programmes of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, to the General Assembly through the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, at its thirtieth session.

9. The Commission has before it the programme on statistics of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog.24)), adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session with the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination.

10. The conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination are as follows (see A/45/16 (Part I)):

> "234. The Committee stressed the importance of the timeliness and easy availability of statistical publications and the need to maintain the central and intersectoral role of the Statistical Office.

"235. The Committee also stressed the need for the statistical data contained in those publications to be reliable and comparable.

"236. It was agreed that the mandate contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/4 should be included as a mandate in subprogramme 1. It also acknowledged the collaboration between the Statistical Office and the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.

"237. The Committee recommended approval of programme 24 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, taking into account the above conclusions."

11. In accordance with the relevant regulations and rules governing programme planning, 1/ revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 will be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, in 1992, to cover the biennium 1994-1995.

III. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

12. Bearing in mind the information provided in sections I and II above, the Commission may wish to review the proposed programme of work and priorities of the Statistical Office for the biennium 1992-1993 and provide comments to the Secretary-General, taking into account the conclusions of the Committee on Programme and Co-ordination on the statistics programme of the medium-term plan.

Notes

1/ See ST/SGB/PPBME/Rules/1 (1987); see also the revisions adopted by the General Assembly (resolution 42/215) on the recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination contained in Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/42/16), part two, para. 74, and the text on the contingency fund adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 42/211.

2/ See, for example, Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1987, Supplement No. 6 (E/1987/19), paras. 205 and 206.

3/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1987, Supplement No. 3 (E/1989/21), paras. 220-225.